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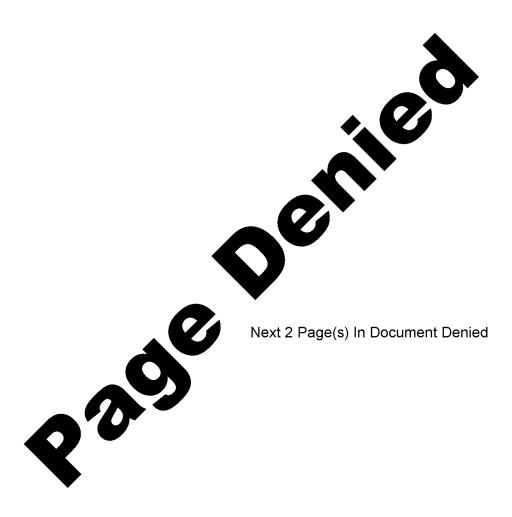
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THE EAST BANK OF THE SHATT AL ARAB HAS EFFECTIVELY INUNDATED

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A 6 NM LENGTH OF THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, FROM A POINT 24 NM NORTH TO A POINT 13 NM NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH WAS CONTINUING (FIGURE 4 OF 4). IRAQI STRONGPOINTS CONSISTING OF THREE TRIANGULAR SHAPED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WERE ALONG THIS BERM. A SECOND DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, IS 13 NM SOUTHEAST OF AL BASRAH. A THIRD DEFENSIVE EARTHEN BERM, 6 NM NORTHEAST OF AL BASRAH, WAS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(S/D) IRAQI FORCES, WHOSE LEAD ELEMENTS WERE DEPLOYED IN FRONT-LINE POSITIONS ALONG THE IRAN-IRAQ BORDER NORTH AND POINT EAST OF AL BASRAH, INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF SEVEN BRIGADE-SIZE ARMOR FORCES, THREE FA BATTALIONS, ONE SPG BATTALION, ONE MRL BATTERY, AND AT LEAST FOUR INFANTRY UNITS. BETWEEN 12 AND 13 JULY, IRANIAN ARTILLERY SHELLED THESE FORCES. IRAQI FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE FRONT-LINE UNITS, INCLUDED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO BRIGADE-SIZE ARMOR FORCES, 12 FA BATTALIONS, AND FOUR PROBABLE MRL BATTERIES. AN ADDITIONAL IRAQI FA BATTALION REMAINED DEPLOYED ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SHATT AL ARAB, 15 NM SOUTHEAST OF AL BASRAH. (PERSIAN GULF SECTION

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